

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /049 W

----- 087083

R 281020Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0425

INFO AMCONSUL NAHA

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA

CINCPAC

UNCLAS TOKYO 7010

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: SOFA INCIDENT: OFF BASE ARREST

SUMMARY. OFF BASE APPREHENSION AND SUBSEQUENT DETENTION OF TWO NEWSMAN BY MARINE MILITARY POLICEMEN ON OKINAWA HAS BECOME NEW SOFA ISSUE. FONOFF HAS EXPRESSED PRELIMINARY OPINION THAT MPS EXCEEDED THEIR AUTHORITY UNDER SOFA. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MAY 24 MARINE MILITARY POLICEMEN ARRESTED TWO NEWSMEN (ONE OKINAWAN; THE OTHER AMERICAN) IN AN OFF BASE AREA ADJACENT TO CAMP FOSTER IN CENTRAL OKINAWA. INCIDENT AROSE AS A RESULT OF ALTERCATION WHICH DEVELOPED AFTER NEWSMEN PROTESTED THAT MPS WERE ILLEGALLY APPREHENDING THREE AMERICANS (ALL UNDER SOFA) WHO HAD BEEN STOPPED ON SUSPICION OF DRUNK DRIVING. MPS USED NIGHT STICKS AND XM 32 TEAR GAS TO SUBDUE NEWSMEN WHO WERE THEN TAKEN TO THE MILITARY PRECINCT STATION AT FUTEMA AT ABOUT 5:55 PM. IT APPEARS THAT BECAUSE OF A BREAKDOWN OF COMMUNICATIONS, JAPANESE POLICE WERE NOT NOTIFIED UNTIL ABOUT 7:20. JAPANESE POLICE ARRIVED AT FUTEMNA PRECINCT ABOUT 7:35 AND THEY DEPARTED WITH NEWSMEN ABOUT 8:25.

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2. INCIDENT HAS ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION AND PROTEST.
AT ISSUE IS QUESTION OF WHETHER MPS VIOLATED SOFA BY
(1) ARRESTING NEWSMEN IN THE FIRST PLACE AND (2) BY FAILING
TO TURN THEM OVER TO JAPANESE POLICE IMMEDIATELY AS CALLED FOR
IN SOFA ARRANGMENTS.

3. ON MAY 27 AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL YAMAZAKI EXPRESSED
HIS CONCERN ABOUT INCIDENT. HE SAID THAT IN FONOFF VIEW MILITARY
POLICEMEN APPEARED TO HAVE MADE EXCESSIVE USE OF THEIR
AUTHORITY IN APPREHENDING AND DETAINING NEWSMEN.

4. COMMENT. COMING ON THE HEELS OF RECENT CRIMINAL JURISDICTION
CONTROVERSIES ON OKINAWA, INCIDENT IS SURE TO ADD TO FONOFF DIET
PROBLEM. IT SEEMS CERTAIN THAT FONOFF WILL TAKE PUBLIC
POSITION IN DIET ALONG LINES EXPRESSED BY YAMAZAKI.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 28 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: MARR, JA, US, YQ
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